

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING SECURE RETIREMENT BENEFITS  
VIA A CONVERSION PROCESS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

DECLARATIONS OF LARRY PORT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.132

In support of U.S. Patent Application 09/541,197, I Larry Port, Senior Vice President in the MassMutual Financial Group declare that:

1. I have worked in the financial services industry since 2000.
2. I have been employed by the MassMutual Financial Group since 2000. From 2000 through 2007 I was employed by the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. I am currently employed by Babson Capital Management LLC, which is an affiliate of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. MassMutual Financial Group is the fleet name of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company and its affiliates.
3. During my employment with the MassMutual Financial Group, I was made aware of the products and activities of Golden Retirement Resources, Inc. These products included a

Commercial Annuity. The Commercial Annuity provided for the allocation of an asset at selected intervals of an allocation period in accordance with allocation instructions provided by the beneficiary to purchase a single instrument providing guaranteed life-dependent benefits. The Commercial Annuity supported changes in the guaranteed life-dependent benefits provided.

4. I further was made aware of activities by Golden Retirement Resources, Inc. to develop and license systems that permit a beneficiary to implement and administer a retirement benefit program including the allocation of one or more assets owned by the beneficiary to a guaranteed, life-dependent retirement benefit.
5. Upon observing the products and activities of Golden Retirement Resources, MassMutual Financial Group desired to obtain a product and system that provides for the conversion of an asset at selected intervals of an allocation period to purchase a guaranteed life-dependent benefit.
6. In late 2004 MassMutual Financial Group sought to acquire Golden Retirement Resources. Golden Retirement Resources possession of the Commercial Annuity product and related products and systems for managing the Commercial Annuity product were critical to the decision to acquire Golden Retirement Resources. Through the acquisition of Golden Retirement Resources, MassMutual Financial Group obtained a product that enables a client to allocate an asset at selected intervals of an allocation period to purchase a guaranteed life-dependent benefit. Acquisition of the Commercial Annuity product and its related products and systems was the principal reason that MassMutual Financial Group sought to acquire Golden Retirement Resources.

7. In June of 2005 MassMutual Financial Group completed the acquisition of Golden Retirement Resources. Golden Retirement Resources was acquired primarily to provide MassMutual Financial Group with a product that enables a client to allocate an asset at selected intervals of an allocation period to purchase a guaranteed life-dependent benefit.
8. I declare that the statements made of my own knowledge are true and statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and these statements are made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code or other provisions, and that any such willful false statements, if filed, may jeopardize the validity U.S. Patent Application 09/541,197 or any patent issued thereon.

Date:

September 17, 2007

By:

Larry Port